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Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

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Report of the Secretary-General**

Addendum

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* A/57/150.

** The present report contains replies of Member States and United Nations organs. In spite of a clear deadline set in the note verbale for submission of contributions, the Americas and Europe Division, Department of Political Affairs, has no control over late submissions.

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I. Replies received from Governments

Antigua and Barbuda

[Original: English]
[29 July 2002]

Antigua and Barbuda has never enacted any law enforcing an embargo on any State and is in conformity with all the requirements of resolution 56/9.

Egypt

[Original: English]
[22 July 2002]

The delegation of Egypt voted in favour of the resolution in line with Egypt's consistent view that unilateral sanctions outside the United Nations framework are not a course of action that Egypt can condone.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[11 June 2002]

Mexico rejects the application of laws or unilateral measures relating to an economic embargo against any country. Also, Mexico has always rejected the use of coercive measures as a means of exerting pressure in international relations, because it considers that unilateral acts of this nature endanger State sovereignty, violate the principles of Mexico's foreign policy and are contrary to international law.

Mexico's external relations are based on the principles of international law which govern coexistence among nations and are established in its Constitution: self-determination of peoples, non-interference, peaceful settlement of disputes, prohibition of the threat or use of force in international relations, legal equality of States, international development cooperation, and the struggle for international peace and security.

The Government of Mexico has repeatedly expressed its opposition to the imposition of political or economic sanctions which have not been adopted by the Security Council and other measures not recommended by the General Assembly. Mexico opposes the economic, commercial and financial embargo and, since 1992, has consistently supported all the General Assembly resolutions on the need to end the embargo against Cuba.

Mexico expresses concern about the negative effects of the economic, commercial and financial embargo on the Cuban population, and underscores the importance of the General Assembly's appeals for the embargo against this country to be lifted once and for all.

When the so-called Helms-Burton Act was promulgated, the Government of Mexico stated at the time that the Act was contrary to the norms of international law. This position was echoed in the opinion handed down on 4 June 1996 by the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

On 24 October 1996, the Act on Protection of Trade and Investment against Foreign Norms which Violate International Law entered into force in Mexico. The law seeks to eliminate the negative impact of foreign extraterritorial measures that affect Mexico's trade with other countries. The Act:

(a) Prohibits national courts from recognizing and executing foreign judicial decisions and orders which are directed against companies established or situated in Mexico and based on foreign laws with extraterritorial effects that are contrary to international law;

(b) Prohibits enterprises established or situated in Mexico from acting or neglecting to act in a manner which might impair Mexico's trade or investments on the basis of such laws;

(c) Provides for the right to take legal action before federal courts on behalf of individuals or legal entities situated or established in Mexico to sue for payment for damages or loss resulting from a judicial or administrative procedure carried out by foreign courts or authorities in application of such laws;

(d) Prohibits the provision of information requested by foreign courts or authorities on the basis of such laws for use against such enterprises, and imposes financial penalties for non-compliance.

Mexico supports the entry of the Republic of Cuba into the Latin-American Integration Association as of 25 August 1999. On 17 October 2000, Mexico

and Cuba signed Economic Complementarity Agreement No. 51 (ECA No. 51), which took the place of the Acuerdo de Alcance Parcial No. 12. Subsequently, on 23 May 2002, the Second Additional Protocol to ECA No. 51 was signed, modifying provisions relating to the origin regime. On 30 May 2001, an agreement was signed for the reciprocal promotion and protection of investments.

Oman

[Original: English]
[24 July 2002]

The Sultanate of Oman supports the ending of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba.

The Sultanate of Oman is of the view that international relations should not be conducted through economic sanctions which hurt, first and foremost, civilians rather than Governments.

Viet Nam

[Original: English]
[25 June 2002]

The policies of embargo and blockade imposed by the United States of America against the Republic of Cuba over the past decades have violated not only international law, in general and the freedom of international trade, in particular, but also the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. It runs counter to the common desires of States to build healthy international relations, cooperation for development on the basis of equality, non-discrimination of political systems and respect for the right of every nation to choose its path of development.

Over the past many years, the General Assembly has continuously adopted by an overwhelming majority resolutions, most recently resolution 56/9 of 27 November 2001, with 167 votes in favour, demanding the United States to put an end to its policies and acts of economic, commercial and financial embargo and blockage imposed upon Cuba.

Viet Nam is of the view that all the disputes between the United States and the Republic of Cuba should be resolved through dialogue and negotiation in the spirit of mutual respect, respect for the independence and sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of one another.

Viet Nam reaffirms its strong support for the resolutions of the General Assembly and believes that the United Nations should undertake concrete measures and initiatives so that these resolutions will be implemented as soon as possible to put an immediate end to the policies of embargo imposed by the United States upon the Republic of Cuba.

Once again, Viet Nam reaffirms its friendship, cooperation and solidarity with the Cuban people and together with all the peace, freedom and justice-loving people over the world, Viet Nam will do its utmost to assist the Cuban people to overcome the consequences of the above-mentioned immoral and illegal policies.

Zambia

[Original: English]
[12 July 2002]

Zambia, in conformity with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation, opposes the continued embargo against Cuba and any laws with extraterritorial effect. Consequently, Zambia does not subscribe to or support the promulgation and application of laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 56/9, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba". Therefore, the question of repealing such laws does not arise.

II. Replies received from organs and agencies of the United Nations system

International Telecommunication Union

[Original: English]
[27 June 2002]

The role of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is to facilitate peaceful relations, international cooperation among peoples and economic

and social development by means of efficient telecommunication services. In this respect, Cuba has been benefiting from ITU assistance, namely through the Telecommunication Development Bureau.